COTTON CHATS

DRAPER CORPORATION
HOPEDALE, MASSACHUSETTS

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THE DEVELOPMENT AND INTRODUCTION OF INVENTIONS IN SOME COUNTRIES IS SLOW

The following extracts from recent English papers show that commercial weaving machinery in India is more than a century behind that of this country. Exporters of woven goods to India must reckon with the cloth woven on hand looms by help paid the equivalent of but a few cents per day.

THE INDIAN COTTON-GOODS MARKETS.

Journal of the Textile Institute, Manchester, England.

An exhaustive analysis of the Indian piece goods trade is made by A. C. Coubrough, C. B. E., in the Bulletin of Indian Industry and Labor. The writer illustrates the total consumption of piece goods, the average price of piece goods, the quantity and value of imported and India mill piece goods, and the annual profits made by Indian mills, during the period 1909-1921.

The pre-war consumption of piece goods varied trom 4,000,000,000 to 5,300,000,000 yards, the average being about 4,800,000,000 yards. Demand declined steadily during the war, reaching the lowest point during 1919-20 with 3,000,000,000 yards. The following year trade improved and 4,030,000,000 yards were disposed of. The amount of piece goods imported fell from 3,100,000,000 yards in 1913-14 (a boom year) to 1,000,000,000 in 1918-19 and to 960,000,000 in 1919-20, increasing to 1,430,000,000 yards in 1920-21. During the same period the production of Indian mills increased from 1,060,000,000 yards in 1913-14 to 1,430,000,000 in 1920-21, suffering only a small relapse during the bad year 1918-19.

Indian mill owners increased their production to the greatest possible amount during the war, but, owing to the impossibility of importing machinery, the limit was reached shortly after the outbreak of war. The influence of high profits in speeding up production is shown by the fact that whereas the number of looms in Indian mills increased by only 15 per cent between 1914 and 1920, the output of woven goods increased by 46 per cent. During this period prices reached three times their pre-war value, while wages rose about 58 per cent and standing charges remained stationary. By 1921 the value of factory-made goods was 680,000,000 rupees—about four times the value of the pre-war output.

An interesting feature of the report is the light it throws on the size and importance of the domestic industry. In 1913-14, 1,140,000,000 yards of cloth were manufactured on hand looms; in the following year the output increased to 1,300,000,000; during 1917-18 it fell to 850,000,000

yards; rising to 1,130,000,000 in 1918-19, and to 1,170,000,000 in 1919-20.

These figures show that up to the present time the hand loom is maintaining its position in the native industry despite the competition of the power loom.

In discussing his results, Mr. Coubrough points out that there is little competition between imported and Indian cloth. In 1920-21 of the 4,000,000,000 yards consumed in India imported piece goods of a character similar to those produced in the country comprised less than 400,000,000 yards.

INDUSTRIAL INDIA HAS THREE MILLION HAND LOOMS WITH £50,000,000 OUTPUT

"The Punjab Industrial Bulletin" for January 13 contains a review of the industrial importance of India, which states that she is frequently regarded merely as a producer of raw materials supplied to other countries for use in their industries, and it is forgotten that a considerable proportion of these raw materials are manufactured locally for home consumption and export. India, it is pointed out, exported last year manufactured goods worth £86,911,000, and in the foreign trade alone 13,000,000 tons of shipping entered and cleared from her ports; that the mileage of her railways exceeds that of the United Kingdom or France; that the Indian jute industry is unrivalled in magnitude, and her cotton industry fifth in importance in the world.

There are over 20,000,000 workers in industries in India, over a million of whom are employed in

"factories" within the meaning of Indian law. This definition is exceedingly narrow, covering, as it does, only industrial undertakings using power and employing 50 persons or more. With regard to handicrafts in India, there are the flourishing cotton industries; hand loom weaving is a feature of the industrial life of the country. It is estimated that **between two and three million hand looms** are at work in India with an annual output worth more than **£50,000,000.**—Textile Mercury, March 1922.

Hand Loom and Weaver India